

**NETWORK BASED CENTRALIZED CONTROL  
AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

- 5 A method and associated apparatus to secure access to peripheral devices and maintain accounting of usage and billing to users of peripheral devices and documents that are processed by the documents by way of a centralized device. The central device and peripheral devices are connected by a network such as the Internet. The central device performs pattern recognition of documents and maintains user account information, denying or allowing access of users to peripheral devices depending on the user status. Peripheral devices are updated by the central device according to recent account updates and changes.